



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

# FARM LABOR



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## Florida

The number of workers paid by farmers and agricultural services totaled 49,000 during the survey week of October 11 through 17. Farmers hired 46,000 workers, 10,000 more than last quarter, and 8,000 more than a year ago. Agricultural services provided 3,000 paid workers, up 1,000 from last quarter, and unchanged from October 2008.

Weather conditions were mostly favorable for field work during the reference week. High temperatures were in the 80s and lower 90s. The majority of rain fell in the Panhandle which caused delays to peanut and cotton harvesting. Cool season pastures were planted. Sugarcane harvest began in the southern region of Florida. Vegetable growers planted fields and performed cultural operations. Very light harvesting of eggplant, peas, squash, beans, and corn began. Avocados, tomatoes, cucumbers, okra, and watermelon were marketed. Citrus producers harvested 408,000 boxes (preliminary) during the survey week, which is up from the 379,000 boxes (preliminary) harvested during the previous year's reference week. Vegetable growers shipped about 12.4 million pounds of vegetables and non-citrus fruits during the survey week, up from the preliminary 3.4 million in July and 5.72 million in October 2008.

The October combined farmer and agricultural all hired worker wage rate average was \$10.70 per hour, 18 cents more than the \$10.52 paid last quarter, and 61 cents more than the \$10.09 paid a year ago. Farmers paid an average of \$10.65 per hour, 14 cents more than the \$10.51 paid in the previous quarter, and 56 cents more than the \$10.09 paid the previous year. Agricultural services paid workers an average of \$11.35 per hour, 70 cents more than last quarter and \$1.30 more than last year.

## United States

### Hired Workers Down 2 Percent, Wage Rates up 2 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1,092,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 11-17, 2009, down 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 807,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 285,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.91 per hour during the October 2009 reference week, up 21 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.25 per hour, up 20 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$10.23 per hour compared with \$10.21 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.24 per hour, was up 15 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 39.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 6 percent from a year ago.

The largest decreases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in California, and in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), and Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) regions. In northern and central California, heavy rains from the remnants of Typhoon Melor caused major fieldwork delays. Therefore, fewer hired workers were needed. Weather conditions in the Appalachian I, Southern Plains, and Delta regions were considerably wetter compared with last year's relatively dry period, and fieldwork was seriously curtailed for several days. This led to a decreased demand for hired workers.

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# Florida All Hired Workers, Hours Worked, and Wage Rates by Type of Worker, with Comparisons

Employer, year, and survey week	Number of hired workers			Number of hours worked	Wages paid by type of worker		
	All	Expected to work			All <sup>1</sup>	Field	Livestock
		150 days or more	149 days or less				
<b>Hired by Farmers <sup>2</sup></b>	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(hours Per week)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
October 11 – 17, 2009.....	46	41	5	38.6	10.65	9.30	10.10
July 12 – 18, 2009.....	36	32	4	37.3	10.51	9.14	9.50
April 12 – 18, 2009.....	46	39	7	38.3	10.33	9.15	9.35
January 11 – 17, 2009.....	38	31	7	37.8	10.16	8.95	9.45
October 12 – 18, 2008.....	38	32	6	39.7	10.09	8.90	9.30
July 6 – 12, 2008.....	42	39	3	40.9	9.90	8.84	9.25
April 6 – 12, 2008.....	51	45	6	41.5	10.25	9.32	9.59
January 6 – 12, 2008.....	49	45	4	41.8	9.98	9.00	9.20
October 7 – 13, 2007.....	43	39	4	41.8	9.76	8.70	8.95
July 8 – 14, 2007.....	41	39	2	41.0	9.49	8.50	8.60
<b>Hired by Agricultural Services <sup>3</sup></b>							
October 11 – 17, 2009.....	3			44.0	11.35		
July 12 – 18, 2009.....	2			43.0	10.65		
April 12 - 18, 2009.....	7			33.0	10.30		
January 11 - 17, 2009.....	9			36.7	10.05		
October 12 – 18, 2008.....	3			42.0	10.05		
July 6 - 12, 2008.....	2			43.0	9.85		
April 6 - 12, 2008.....	8			40.0	10.05		
January 6 - 12, 2008.....	9			41.0	9.90		
October 7 – 13, 2007.....	4			42.0	9.55		
July 8 - 14, 2007.....	2			43.0	9.60		
<b>Hired by Farmers &amp; Agricultural Services <sup>3</sup></b>							
October 11 – 17, 2009.....	49				10.70		
July 12 – 18, 2009.....	38				10.52		
April 12 - 18, 2009.....	53				10.33		
January 11 - 17, 2009.....	47				10.14		
October 12 – 18, 2008.....	41				10.09		
July 6 - 12, 2008.....	44				9.90		
April 6 - 12, 2008.....	59				10.22		
January 6 - 12, 2008.....	58				9.97		
October 7 – 13, 2007.....	47				9.74		
July 8 – 14, 2007.....	43				9.50		

<sup>1</sup> Includes all paid staff, supervisors, and field and livestock workers. Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes agricultural services workers.

<sup>3</sup> Data are for agricultural services performed on the farm by custom service units. Blank data cells for these statistics are not included in the State-Regional tables.

# Hired Workers by Farmers, Wage Rates, and Hours Worked, Selected States, with Comparisons

[Excludes Agricultural Service workers]

Item	Florida	California	Texas & Oklahoma	Arizona & New Mexico	Hawaii	United States <sup>1</sup>
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
All hired workers						
October 11–17, 2009.....	46	157	56	20	6	807
July 12–18, 2009.....	36	170	61	18	6	875
October 12–18, 2008.....	38	176	60	21	6	804
Expected to work						
150 days or more						
October 11–17, 2009.....	41	124	44	18	5	585
July 12–18, 2009.....	32	*135	42	16	5	*609
October 12–18, 2008.....	32	141	43	19	5	577
149 days or less						
October 11–17, 2009.....	5	33	12	2	1	222
July 12–18, 2009.....	4	*35	19	2	1	*266
October 12–18, 2008.....	6	35	17	2	1	227
	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)
Hours worked by all hired workers						
October 11–17, 2009.....	38.6	42.1	39.0	44.9	36.7	39.0
July 12–18, 2009.....	37.3	45.6	39.5	45.4	37.4	39.7
October 12–18, 2008.....	39.7	46.1	36.7	44.5	38.9	41.4
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Wages by type of worker						
Field						
October 11–17, 2009.....	9.30	10.25	9.17	9.10	11.55	10.25
July 12–18, 2009.....	9.14	10.10	8.94	10.09	11.60	10.04
October 12–18, 2008.....	8.90	9.95	9.44	9.44	11.00	10.05
Livestock						
October 11–17, 2009.....	10.10	11.05	10.64	10.06	13.40	10.23
July 12–18, 2009.....	9.50	*11.30	9.72	10.94	13.60	*10.05
October 12–18, 2008.....	9.30	11.90	9.58	10.80	13.00	10.21
Field and livestock combined						
October 11–17, 2009.....	9.40	10.40	9.85	9.50	11.69	10.24
July 12–18, 2009.....	9.20	*10.30	9.30	10.38	11.81	10.04
October 12–18, 2008.....	8.95	10.22	9.50	10.00	11.21	10.09
All hired worker wage rate <sup>2</sup>						
October 11–17, 2009.....	10.65	11.25	10.17	10.30	13.60	10.91
July 12–18, 2009.....	10.51	*11.08	9.88	11.19	13.97	*10.66
October 12–18, 2008.....	10.09	10.93	10.10	10.70	13.24	10.70

\*Revised

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Alaska.

<sup>2</sup> Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

The largest increases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in the Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Florida, Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), and Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) regions. In the Corn Belt I region, continued strong demand from the equine and horticulture industries kept worker numbers higher than last year, despite the extremely wet conditions. Potato and corn harvests in the Pacific region were in high gear in an attempt to beat oncoming rains, causing stronger demand for field workers. In Florida, the reference week was much drier compared with last year when 2 to 3 inches of rain fell statewide, allowing fieldwork to progress rapidly. Therefore, hired worker demand increased. Strong demand from the dairy and horticulture industries in the Mountain II and Northeast II regions pushed worker numbers above the previous year.

Hired worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Mountain II, Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), Northeast II, and Delta regions. The higher wages in the Appalachian II region were due to a higher percentage of workers on equine farms and on nursery and greenhouse operations. In the remaining regions cited, the higher wages were due to a lower percentage of part time workers.

### Annual Wages, Hired Workers, and Hours

The 2009 hired worker annual wage rate for Florida averaged \$10.42, up 36 cents from the 2008 annual average of \$10.06. The annual average wage rate for Florida field workers was \$9.15, up 11 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock worker combined annual average wage rate for Florida was \$9.20, up 12 cents from the previous year's annual average wage rate of \$9.08.

The 2009 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was \$10.82 per hour, up 2 percent from the 2008 annual average wage rate of \$10.59 per hour. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was \$10.07 per hour, up 29 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock worker combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was \$10.11 per hour, up 2 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of \$9.89 per hour.

### Annual Number of Hired Workers, Hours Worked, Average Wage Rates by Region and United States: 2008-2009

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

United States and region	Wages by type of worker <sup>1</sup>			Number of hired workers	Hours worked by hired workers
	All hired <sup>2</sup>	Field	Field & livestock combined		
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(1,000)	(hours per week)
2008					
Florida .....	10.06	9.04	9.08	45.0	41.1
Texas & Oklahoma .....	9.86	8.77	9.27	55.3	38.8
Arizona & New Mexico .....	10.46	9.20	9.82	18.3	44.0
California .....	11.03	9.98	10.17	156.0	44.2
Hawaii .....	13.22	10.92	11.06	6.0	38.2
United States <sup>3</sup> .....	10.59	9.78	9.89	731.5	40.4
2009					
Florida .....	10.42	9.15	9.20	41.5	38.1
Texas & Oklahoma .....	10.30	9.48	9.78	61.0	39.9
Arizona & New Mexico .....	10.45	9.40	9.71	19.5	46.3
California .....	11.14	10.05	10.25	149.3	43.3
Hawaii .....	13.40	11.28	11.45	6.0	37.2
United States <sup>3</sup> .....	10.82	10.07	10.11	739.3	39.3

<sup>1</sup> Annual rates are averages of the published wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average for all States, Regions, and the U.S. is based on data collected for January, April, July, and October.

<sup>2</sup> Includes all paid staff, supervisors, and field and livestock workers. Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes Alaska.